A MARITIME STREETPUNK HISTORY (1712-2018)

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Streetpunk 28 Free Art & Zines

TREATY OF UTRECHT TO GOLDEN AGE OF TRADE (1712-1895)

New Brunswick became a separate province from Nova Scotia for a variety of reasons related to the prison-industrial complex at the same time as Cape Breton in 1784. Cape Breton was mainly Irish and later rejoined to supply Atlantic Canada with coal while New Brunswick was formed for lumber, transportation, crime and punishment, and higher education. The province of New Brunswick was already divided mainly between the English speaking South and French Speaking Northern New Brunswick with scattered forts and bookstores in dense woods. Nova Scotia and its farmland and rocky dunes was founded much earlier with French, British, African, German, Irish, and Scottish towns and had the first settlements of Acadia and also along the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine during the time of Captain Kidd and Blackbeard when theft and murder were rampant. The first gaols constructed by American Loyalists were made of brick and stone and the punishment for theft was a hanging among other deterrents such as stocks and pillory and a whipping post in the early 1800's. The British Treaties stemmed from Fort Halifax with the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) to end the Spanish Succession followed by the surrender of the rest of the French colonies in the Treaty of Verasailles (1763) during the American Civil War.

The Acadian Protest of 1755 at Fort Beausejour resulted in Moncton's new growth, Acadian deportation, and ignited the Seven Years' War which ended with the Battle of Fort Louisbourg (1758) in Cape Breton (formerly Ile Royale). Fort Louisbourg was a completely walled town and French Military Base and Harbour. A musket and a pistol were used in the battle until after the War of 1812 for British Loyalty and the Canadian autonomy question of WW1. After the War of 1812, when the Eastern portion of the Canada-U.S. border were formed; all ships, the Moncton scow, and other working boats operated with the use of sail and later the steam engine which was also used on the railway with Cape Breton coal. The new Maritime invention of the screw propeller by John Patch was used on working boats and ships albeit later with the invention of the electric conductor, and after confederation, Turnbull invented the variable pitch propeller to use on air ships in the 1920's after WW1 (automobile and short wave radio). Prior to the War of 1812, the first official British Survey of roads for horse and buggy was a military survey while we were still using the aboriginal forms of transportation which were the birchbark canoe, snowshoe, and toboggan. Prior to confederation of the Eastern Provinces in 1867 we were using a semaphore system of communication which was coded flags and a telescope adopted by the Duke of Kent from the Napoleonic Wars, print and paper, photography, postal service, and morse code. Prince Edward Island, which was mostly Scottish, held the first meetings for confederation of the two Atlantic provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia along with Quebec and Ontario which were already more industrialized because of the Hudson's Bay Company on Lake Superior which had the country mainly divided between West Natives and Eastern Non-natives with the sales of beaver hats and other pelts and goods before the railway; they ended up selling the business to the government of Canada.

MARITIME GOLDEN AGE FOR TRADE (1830-1895)

- Moncton's shipbuilding port on the Petitcodiac River was very popular because of New Brunswick's reputation for shipbuilding set by the Marco Polo. Sailing from Britain to Austrailia for St. John, it set new world records for speed. When the compound steam engine was invented shortly after by Benjamin Tibbets from New Brunswick, our lumber trade along the Petitcodiac and Miramichi rivers grew substantially with England and The United States. We moved lumber on locomotive flatcars designed for softwood, then transferred to commercial stage coaches pulled by pit ponies. The electricity conductor was invented just after confederation of the Eastern Provinces so the chainsaw and working saw mills made tree felling easier to move quantity. The lumber along with coal, hay, and food was traded in the Maritime Provinces by the wooden workboat. The Grand Banks off the coast of Newfoundland produced a great quantity of fish sold at markets in newspaper and paper boxes with new fish trawling and farming. Lobster in Shediac, New Brunswick was very popular as it was on the other side of the Petitcodiac River in Hillsborough and Alma, Moncton's gateway to the Bay of Fundy. Prince Edward Island sold farm machinery and had a ferry service from Borden to Cape Tormentine, NB across the narrow Northumberland Strait. St. John had a ferry to Digby, Nova Scotia west of Port Royal which was the first permanent Acadian settlement. Towards the end of the golden age for trade we began to make the transition from iron to steel and erected the first all-steel bridge in St. John in 1884.
- Although Aboriginal dancing and European theatre existed prior to 1610, the Roman Catholic baptismal of Micmaq Chief Membertou; the golden age for trade was also a boost for art because canned food, public museums, photography, literary works, and art exhibitions started gaining popularity with the new standard for industry. Later on many movie stars and musicians came from Maritime stock.
- Tourism with the good roads movement, railway boom, and faster ships created an additonal option for seeing the country than military. When the

Hudson's Bay Company sold their company to government of Canada in 1830 small businesses started opening their doors and the newspapers had a classifieds section to advertise for ma and pa stores. The main industrial centres of Toronto and Montreal grew substantially and were under a provincial responsible government law signed by Radical Jack after the Rebellions of 1837. Thirty years later Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia signed to confederation.

- Our earliest form of semi-official currency in the Maritimes was the Halifax dollar but was replaced by the copper penny and Canadian standard. The first bank which was chartered was The Bank of New Brunswick but the Halifax Trade Board had the last official say on business including fire insurance, marine salvage, and farm machinery.Their effect on Maritime trade was substantial. Other businesses included cotton, cardboard and paper boxes, canoes, shoe and watch repair, local arts and crafts, animal breeding, and consumer products. St. John was the commercial hub of New Brunswick for the golden age for trade with Moncton a close second. In the late 1880's it was rumoured that The Famed Marco Polo got stuck in the mud and wasn't able to continue as the original windjammer. So in Tilley Square in Saint John, brick masons worked tirelessly to topple a 108 ft. high, 12 ft. square chimney at the lumber mill without the use of heavy machinery. On their 2nd attempt they were successful and the crowd brought the bricks home to work on their private dwellings.

Main forts and settlements in Southern New Brunswick during early colonization and confederation of the Eastern Provinces

- Settlement of Fredericton on the St. John River- oldest college in Canada once settled by the MicMaq

and Maliseet

- Town of Moncton named after Colonel Robert Monckton (formerly Fort Beausejour) nicknamed the hub city because it was the hub of shipbuilding
- Town of St. John Harbour- First Police Union in Canada
- Town of Miramichi- Known for their Irish Newspapers
- Seaside Resort of St. Andrews by the Sea- Algonquin Inn (5 Star Restaurant on the Pasamaquoddy Bay purchased by CP Rail)
- Acadian Beach of Shediac- Once the Urban Center of Greater Moncton before the Railway Boom of 1855
- Town of Oromocto- RCAF Base outside Fredericton
- Presque Isle- Historic Acadian Community
- Town of Woodstock- next to the oldest wooden covered bridge in Hartland, New Brunswick
- St. Stephen- Formed after the War of 1812 on the New Brunswick- Maine Border and home of Ganong Chocolatiers

MARITIME MUSIC AND ART INDUSTRY (1896-1973)

- After the short-wave radio and automobile were established, the first official Art exhibition of paintings and photographs took place at Dalhousie University in 1930. It was swiftly followed by the start the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). The first news broadcast was from Moose River, Nova Scotia in 1936 from his car about a gold mining disaster following The Klondike Gold Rush in The Yukon. There were no televisions or CD/ Cassette Players or phonograph or vinyl records before this broadcast in Canada. Early recording artists in the 1940's included Billie Holiday, Chuck Berry, Miles Davis, Stompin' Tom Conners, and Nina Simone leading up to the doo-wop and barber shop quartets of the 1940's and Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra in the 1950's. The Golden Age of Rock 'n Roll meant to get records played on the radio it was payola, payola, payola for the Radio DJ before the big record labels got involved such as Columbia Records in the late 1950's. Then came the bands and rock and country took over the airwaves. The first Television broadcast was of a Nova Scotia provincial legislature meeting in 1971. This was followed by The Hard Rock Cafe which combined music, paintings, photography, and memorabillia. Led Zeppelin started with 8-track tapes shortly after and spawned metal, and later on, punk.

Maritime Punk (1974-2018)

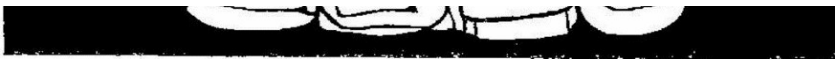


Illustration by Danyel "Gruesomes" Nowhere

DEFINING PUNK In The MARITIMES (Canadian East Coast <Mainlander>)

The definition of punk in The Maritimes has been

incomplete since 1974 And until 2018, only four camps existed and they are old school vs. new school and politicized vs. non-political. Old school punk in the Maritimes started in 1978 in Moncton, New Brunswick, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and St. John's Newfoundland and followed bands in the '77- 79 "Real Punk" era and American Hardcore movement in '80 to '82 in major cities such as New York, London (England), Vancouver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Toronto. The first punk bands in Canada such as D.O.A., The Subhumans, Purple Knight, Forgotten Rebels, Trash Canz, The Reaction, and Teenage Head started at this time and lasted until the new wave of punk happened in 1989- 90. New School punk in The Maritimes started at the same time that Eric's Trip and Elevator To Hell, a couple of indie bands featuring local talent Rick White and Mark Gaudet, were signed to Sub Pop Records with Nirvana. All bands until 2018, when marijuana was legalized in June and a new breed of punk became apparent called Afro Punk are considered to be in the first wave of punk. The characters that make up the period where we made our stamp as an unstoppable force in the 70's and 80's are old school, while the 90's and after the century are new school. Subsequently, punks who identify or listen to bands from these two time periods are also mainly from these two camps as we continue to establish our distaste for the establishment. Some are more rigid about politics, and some believe it is about the music and lyrics. I am from the latter although I believe there are many sociological factors that add to the story. Punk would also be incomplete to leave out that punk started at the end of the Vietnam War. Our movement grew as the first cold war between the U.S. and Russia took effect. Whether we can draw ties to the Black Panther party and Afro Punk is uncertain and will be determined if they remain more conscious of the music rather than it being too political in nature. With a second cold war at the hands of Trump and Kim Jong-un summoning The Great Recession and the second wave of punk, it will produce some great bands in both the underground metal and punk genres.

Punk started to grow as a subculture in East Coast Canada from Newfoundland after a legendary surprise Alice Cooper concert in '72 in the city of St. John's. It was 1972 in Atlantic Canada. The psychedelic wave was making its way east from the West Coast to culminate into a drug infused rock 'n roll party on Duckworth and George streets. Bar owners were calling the cops on their own bars and one could simply ask a passerby for a hit of cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, or crack cocaine. Black Sabbath's "Paranoid" was still being listened to heavily and although Sabbath was considered part of the psychedelic wave, Ozzy was loved by everybody from the very beginning. The Prince of Darkness and The Grateful

Dead were among the inspirations for a vibrant, creative, folk movement which included the beatniks. They weren't part of the psychedelics or the bandannas. They were poets who supplied the fuel for the punk movement on the east coast in just a few short years.

The start of punk rock in The Maritimes was a couple bands featuring local talent Mark Gaudet. Purple Knight and The Robins, started in 1978 and 1980 in Moncton, New Brunswick; Purple Knight is arguably the first punk band in Canada although many people share the opinion that their music defies genres while The Robins is the first real punk band in The Maritimes. A group in Newfoundland called Da Slyme who later on formed The Reaction also started in the late seventies. But punk in Halifax formed at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, an art project by a handful of students at the college. And beyond the walls of NSCAD, The Vacant Lot and The Trash Kanz managed to find a local hippie cafe, Odin's Eye, which wasn't concerned with the standard quo.

Sociologically, from the 70's to the 90's and through the hardcore punk years, skinheads were at the forefront of the working class punks. They were good hardworking boys with shaved heads who believed that it was a man and a woman, usually married, who should both work instead of the tired old tradition of the woman staying home to take care of the children. Real Skinheads in the Maritimes were part of a working class movement and just liked drinking beer and kicking ass. In a very short time, Pierre Trudeau divided and divvied the country in '82 by making racism illegal and many skinheads on the east coast thought immigrants were dividing the working class in the Maritimes. Punks and neo-Nazis emerged from the shadows. The leftover skinheads who did not identify with either group were named Sharps and were the toughest as they would fight nearly everybody. This was the beginning and punks were thought of as inherently non- racist since 1974 with the American punk band RAMONES and British punk band The Sex Pistols.

In Newfoundland during the hardcore movement from '80 to '82, in the small city of St. John's, a band called Schizoid were one of the first in the punk/ thrash metal crossover genre. Their highly sought after Beer Thief 7" is a staple in the underground music scene. Since then, there has been a tight-knit punk scene with some old school and new school bands such as Pockethands, Uneeda and, Rough Surf. It is mostly held to St. John's while the rest of the island shares Newfie blends of Celtic, rock, country, and traditional folk music. Widely speaking in Montreal, during the 80's, there was a stark division between punks in the St. Henri and Hochelaga

communities and in Toronto they had the bigger scene. In Moncton, we had Bad Luck #13 which started in 1988 with their first release “Puppet Show” two years after forming the band. They were after the formation of many punk bands such as SNFU and The Misfits and during punk and hardcore scene in New York. At this time, Moncton bands were having fun resisting political confrontation. We hated the institution of religion, high school, cops, and government. Our punks found refuge in going to punk shows with our friends, community radio, cartoons, and comic books. Our politics included families, race, treatment of women, and globalization. We weren’t included in the incestuous nuclear family and our music scene thrived on a large scene of old school bands and venues such as The Shipyard, Esquire Tavern, and L’Osmose.

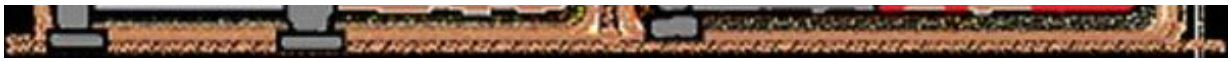
During the punk and hardcore movement we would never believe that immigrants were the problem like the rednecks did and, if we didn’t smarten up, we were going to get our ass kicked. Neo- Nazis shared the distaste for immigrants coming to Canada to work and were angry about it. But punks in the 80’s and 90’s thought the immigrants were alright, and were just kids of Gen X with angry music and dancing to boot. Until 2018 and the introduction afro punk, punks and neo-Nazis were still disgruntled at each other in Canada. Punks hate bums, Bums hate cops, Neo- Nazis love cops, Anarcho-commies hate neo-Nazis. In addition to a leather, bomber, or jean jacket, boots and laces were an indication of camp. Homemade tattoos meant you were evil, and hair dye meant you were punk. It’s still a lot about fashion and trends. Sometimes our causes are more important than the music, lyrics, sociological factors, and fashion (i.e diet, drugs, family politics, or globalization.)

In the 90’s and after the end of the century, The Maritimes produced many great new school bands who followed NIrvana and Green Day, as well as the older styles of punk and hardcore. The year 1994 saw the introductlon of streetpunk. Fredericton had gritty punk rock bands such as Atomic Machetes, Dirt Track Dates, and Spaceblood. Ask a Punk for directions to The Maniac Mansion. Bands in Fredericton were less political than the bands on P.E.I. On the island, bands such as Hollow were newer school but were surrounded by a lot of rock and metal bands. Their bands are part of a scene which is heavily metal influenced, but still has some old school punk bands like Schpinsch. St. John has a lot of things happening with one or two venues like The Panic Room. Punk bands in St. John brought some good punk rock, pop punk, and experimental bands to the table such as Cherry Cruiser and AV. More recently, their Quality Block Party Fest hosts many local-ish bands and happens in the

downtown area close to Union St.

The introduction of Folk punk in the year 2006 changed many things in bigger cities around the Maritimes. The first real folk punk record was a split CD called “The Smokin’ Split” and was recorded at a house in Vancouver. It followed more mainstream folk punk bands like Mischief Brew and gained momentum as they traveled east in less than a year, and found their home base in Halifax, NS. Folk Punks (or hippie-punks) were the new psychedelic wave and sang about quitting their job to hitch and hop the country on the highways and railway. They played acoustic instruments because it made it easier to travel rather than lugging around heavy gear and put on many shows with free cover, rooted mostly at punk houses rather than at a drinking establishment like a bar or tavern. The awesomeness of hardcore bands such as Hard Charger and Warsick powered through with many great bar shows and mark some solid entries for hardcore vinyl collectors everywhere. And from 2006 until 2018, we could coexist with Halifax again by the old Pop Punk and Punk Rock bands, Crass/ Crust punks, and Queer punks. Crust punks liked both punk and extreme metal and were known by being filthy in the underground scene. Crass punks promoted a new way of life in an artistic and anarchistic way. Queer punks were more accepting of women in the punk scene and held women publically to a higher standard.

The final push against globalization, racist cops, and a conservative government was until the legalization of marijuana in 2018. Into the unknown, we all fought together as brothers and sisters in punk and found new ways to survive on the internet. Hell, we started out recording in basements, kitchens and, living rooms. There are a lot of punks waiting for their 5 minutes of fame.



About The Author:

Bryan Rose is a Maritime Punk guitar player since summer of ’96 and has been a songwriter for 4 bands (Deamons, Brian Rose Band, X4Eady, Fear of Lipstick). Often doing vocals, harmonica, playing bass, and guitar on friends' projects (13 actually), he worked in the Maritimes while releasing 10 albums of original material. He played the first new school punk shows in both his hometown Riverview and Moncton, as well as

the first folk punk show in Atlantic Canada. Bryan was #4 on CKDU Radio in Halifax in 2008 and was featured on 4 Maritime music compilations and 7 Canadian Tours. He worked in all types of kitchens as a line cook and dishwasher has a block 1 and cook certificate, Foodsafe Atlantic, First Aid, and WHMIS card. In 2015, after going back to college, Brian was diagnosed with long- term schizophrenia and lives in his hometown of Moncton, NB where he does art and zines.